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MONTANA FULLBACKS
KEY TO OFFENSE

BRUNELL
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MISSOULA-----

One of the keys to the Texas option offense which the Univeristy of Montana employs is a strong fullback.

In 1970 the Grizzlies have two fullbacks, both bona fide All-Americans. Les Kent, last year's starter and second team AP All-American selection and Wally Gaskins, who was an All-American at Columbia Basin Junior College in 1964 before entering the service, are battling for the starting position.

Kent's devastating point is that he is at full speed after two steps, Grizzly coach Jack Swarthout said. The quickness that Kent hits the hole is important to triple the option formation and makes the defense commit itself early.

"Since our offense is based on the ability of the quarterback to read the play of the opposing lineman, offensive quickness is essential, especially at the fullback slot," Swarthout said. He must force the defense to react to him or to the ball.

"Gaskins is pushing Kent hard for the starting position," the Montana coach said. It's been a hard battle for Wally because he hasn't played since 1965 due to a four year stint in the service.

"Both Kent and Gaskins have the essential quickness and are about equal. I think that when Wally gets some game experience under his belt, he'll be tough to keep out of the starting lineup," Swarthout said.

He said, with this offense its nice to have two fullbacks designed for our attack. "They are quick and hit like Sherman tanks and I believe they will gain alot of yards this season."

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